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THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE: EXPANDING?

ANNCR:

WESTERN OBSERVERS AT THE RECENT EAST GERMAN PARTY CONGRESS ARE PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS BY PARTY LEADER ERICH HONECKER. THEY SEE IN HIS REMARKS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WANTS TO EXTEND THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE BEYOND THE WARSAW PACT MEMBERSHIP. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE:

(OPT) UNLIKE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, EAST GERMAN PARTY LEADERS ADMIT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS TO THEIR CONGRESSES. THUS WESTERN JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE PERSONALLY THE SHARP CONTRAST IN THE ATTITUDES OF GUEST DELEGATES WHOSE PARTIES DENY MOSCOW'S LEADERSHIP OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, AND THOSE WHOSE PARTIES FOLLOW MOSCOW'S LINE. ITALIAN, FRENCH, DANISH AND SPANISH PARTY DELEGATES CLAIMED INDEPENDENCE, AND WERE JOINED IN DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL COMMUNISM BY DELEGATES FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA., THE MOSCOW FAITHFUL WERE REPRESENTED BY POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND, ABOVE ALL, EAST GERMANY ITSELF. (END OPT)

EAST GERMAN PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY ERICH HONECKER EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. HE SPOKE OF THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM THROUGH "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT", AND HE TALKED ABOUT "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM." IT WAS IN THE NAME OF "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" THAT MOSCOW LED OTHER PACT MEMBERS TO INTERFERE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN 1968. THE EXCUSE THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

HAVE NOT ONLY A RIGHT BUT A DUTY TO PROTECT COMMUNISM IN OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IS THE BASIS TO THE SO-CALLED BREZHNEV DOCTRINE.

IN HIS FIVE-HOUR SPEECH, MR. HONECKER EXPANDED ON THIS APPROACH. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT HE INTERPRETED THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE AS APPLYING NOT ONLY TO MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT, BUT ALSO TO "ALL FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." THE PAPER SAID THIS COULD INCLUDE CUBA AND POSSIBLY SOME AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. (OPT) THE MONITOR QUOTED MR. HONECKER AS SAYING THAT EAST GERMANY WOULD HELP MAINTAIN THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN THESE COUNTRIES IF THREATENED BY WHAT HE CALLED "AGGRESSIVE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION". (END OPT) THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAYS, "HE WAS IN EFFECT RESTATING THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE ON A GLOBAL SCALE."

EUROPEAN PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS THE "NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG" OF SWITZERLAND AND THE LONDON "ECONOMIST" NOTE INCREASING SOVIET CALLS FOR IDEOLOGICAL PURITY AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES. THEY SEE THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN AS AN EFFORT TO SHIELD EAST EUROPE FROM WESTERN IDEAS FOLLOWING THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE AND ITS HOPES FOR GREATER HUMAN FREEDOM. THE "ECONOMIST" EVEN SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE NEW MOSCOW CAMPAIGN FOR CLOSER FORMAL TIES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. THE BRITISH PUBLICATION SAYS THE SOVIETS MAY EVEN TRY TO CREATE SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE PRE-WAR COMINTERN OR THE POST-WAR COMINFORM -- A MOSCOW CENTER OF IDEOLOGICAL LINKS TO COMPLEMENT THE MILITARY TIES OF THE WARSAW PACT.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE REVIVAL -- LET ALONE ANY POSSIBLE EXPANSION -- OF THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE FLIES DIRECTLY

IN THE FACE OF THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI PLEDGES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES. AND AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTIES APPEAR TO BE STRONGLY RESISTING ANY NEW ATTEMPT AT CONFORMITY IN THE NAME OF "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM".

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